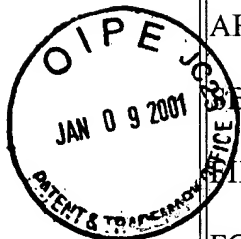


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APPLN. OF: TAPER et al  
SERIAL NO.: 09/700,573  
FILED: NOVEMBER 16, 2000

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL PRIOR ART DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein. These references are discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This prior art disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

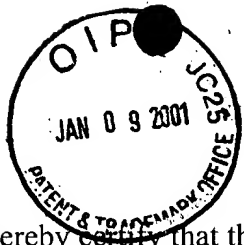
Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney for Applicant  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 5, 2001 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Kristina Stevens

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